

FROM THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC.

A FIGHT AT BRISTOW STATION.

THE REBELS BADLY BEATEN.

One or Two Batteries Taken.

CAPTURE OF 450 PRISONERS.

OUR ARMY IN A STRONG POSITION.

MEADE ANXIOUS FOR AN ATTACK.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

We have received from two of our correspondents with the Army of the Potomac brief but intelligible accounts of the principal engagement yesterday, and of the situation of affairs this afternoon. The battle of yesterday afternoon was at Bristow Station, where was a train of our wagons which served as a guard of the wagons was driven back for a moment, but a portion of the 2d Corps (Gen. Warren's), which was masked in the vicinity, marched to the rescue and attacked the enemy briskly. During the heat of this fight, not less than thirty-six pieces of cannon were in rapid discharge. The enemy were finally repulsed, with the loss of an entire battery, which was taken in less than five minutes.

One good result of the fight was the partial destruction of Brantsville, which has long served as a shelter for guerrillas. Of the capture of one Rebel battery there is no doubt, and one of our correspondents says that a second one was captured. Another report says that the number of guns taken was fourteen.

About five hundred prisoners were taken, of whom four hundred and seventy arrived here this evening. Our casualties were comparatively small. One hundred and fifty were killed, and wounded. The fight was principally on the right.

Gen. Meade effected the movement to his new line, which is not very far from the field that has been rendered historic yesterday, with slight loss of material, so far as is known, although some valuable trains have not yet come in. The railroad trains were all saved, with almost if not quite all the wagons. A few of the latter may possibly, however, have fallen into the hands of the enemy.

Gen. Meade has taken up a position in which he invites, and his soldiers desire, an attack from the enemy. His troops are in the best of spirits, and well in hand, and his position is of his own selection. The enemy has made no offensive movement, so far as can be ascertained since yesterday, when he was foiled. It is supposed that the whole army of Lee is on this side of the Rappahannock, but it is considered doubtful whether he will dare to assume the offensive under present circumstances. The prevailing idea among our troops is that Lee has a powerful force, but the authorities here regard Meade as at least his equal in point of numbers, and no apprehensions are felt for the result. There is less excitement in Washington than usual during a crisis of this nature.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15-1 p.m.

The Extra Star says the firing yesterday in front was that of a considerable engagement between a large force of Rebels and a portion of the Army of the Potomac, a part of Gen. Warren's 2d Corps, which was in the vicinity of Bristow Station, infantry and cavalry being engaged on both sides.

The result was a decided Union victory, the Rebels being badly beaten, with the loss of an entire battery and 100 prisoners, who fell into our hands. The termination of the fight, the 2d, Major-Gen. Sykes's corps, came up and assisted in driving the enemy off the field.

The Return of the Army to Bristow and Catlett's Station—Particulars of the Engagement on Wednesday.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

The falling back of our forces from Rappahannock Station to Bristow and Catlett's is represented as a magnificent spectacle. They marched by four parallel lines. There was no disorder or confusion. Every movement was conducted with remarkable regularity. In the recent conflict between the Potomac and Shenandoah, while the latter was endeavoring to effect a flank movement on the former's left, the colors of both these Generals, at one time, were not over 50 yards distant from each other, and while there were charges of cavalry on the left and front, hand to hand encounters followed. Our cavalry were in splendid condition and exhibited the greatest bravery and gallantry. Their officers say they never showed a better spirit, and in the succession of charges and rallying, obeyed orders with a coolness, regularity, and rapidity unequalled in the war. The country being open, the spectacle is described as interesting and grand beyond description.

A few particulars of the engagement yesterday in the neighborhood of Catlett's and Bristow Stations have been received. It appears the Rebels early in the morning furiously attacked the 2d Army Corps, commanded by General Warren, and the Cavalry Division of General Gregg. The 2d Corps, being one of the oldest, and highly efficient, succeeded in stopping the Rebel advance, compelling the enemy to fall back with heavy loss, our own troops also suffering largely. The Union cavalry in the manner fought with great desperation, leaving many killed and wounded on the field. A considerable number of prisoners fell into our hands, and a battery of six guns. General Sykes, with the 4th Army Corps, ably supported the 2d in their arduous task of defending the rear. At 6 o'clock in the evening General Lee made a desperate attempt to flank General Meade by the way of Chantilly, and endeavoring to get into his rear by the way of Fairfax Court House. In this he was unsuccessful, as General Meade anticipated the Rebel by falling rapidly back to the covered spot, thus effectually checking a movement which would have endangered both the Army of the Potomac and the Capital.

During last night Gen. Meade ordered one of his supply trains further back in his rear, when it was attacked by a small force of Rebels, probably mounted guerrillas. The teamsters resolved not to lose the property, rallied to defend it, and succeeded in driving away the enemy, who escaped with only two of the very large number of wagons.

It is not believed there has been any fighting of importance to-day. Artillery firing was heard early this morning, but it was not of long continuance.

Major Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, with his staff, left here for the front at 2 o'clock this afternoon. In case of a general engagement he will take command of his own corps.

Another Account.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

In the repulse of the enemy's attack upon Gen. Warren, who was bringing up the rear, we captured six guns from the enemy.

It was not known here up to 3 o'clock this afternoon whether there had been any fighting of consequence to-day.

Gen. Meade's Announcement to the Army.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, Oct. 15, 1863.

The Major-General commanding announces to the Army, that the rear guard, consisting of the 2d Corps, was attacked yesterday while marching by the flank

New-York

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NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1863.

IMPORTANT FROM MISSOURI.

DECISIVE BATTLE WITH SHELBY'S FORCES.

THE REBELS COMPLETELY ROUTED.

Loss of all their Baggage and Artillery.

OUR TROOPS STILL IN PURSUIT.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

The following dispatches were received to-day at the Headquarters of the Army:

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 13, 1863.

Major Gen. H. W. Halleck, General in Chief.

Sir: Gen. Brown has beaten the Rebels under Shelby three times, and is still in close pursuit. Their escape is hardly possible.

Two expeditions recently sent to North Eastern Arkansas have captured and sent to Pilot Knob over 100 prisoners.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major-General.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 14, 1863.

Major Gen. H. W. Halleck, General in Chief.

Sir: Gen. Brown brought the Rebels under Shelby to a decisive engagement yesterday. The fight was obstinate, and lasted five hours. The Rebels were finally completely routed, and scattered in all directions, with the loss of all their artillery and baggage and a large number of small arms and prisoners.

The enemy's loss in killed and wounded is very large. Our troops are still pursuing the flying Rebels.

J. M. SCHOFIELD, Major-General.

ST. LOUIS, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

Several squads of Shelby's raiders crossed the Pacific Railroad to-day, on their way south, pursued by Gen. Brown's cavalry. Shelby's raid is at an end, and his forces are scattered in every direction.

The Latest Rebel Raid—The Pacific Railroad Damaged—Mischievous of the Rebels—Bad Policy, and its Fruit—Stemmen, &c.

From Our Special Correspondent.

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 15, 1863.

Thanks to somebody's neglect, the Rebel invasion of this State has assumed dimensions quite annoying, if not important. Shelby, the leader of the Rebel forces, has possession of the Pacific Railroad from California Station twenty-five miles west of Jefferson City, and possibly Sedalia, its terminus. By this time is in his hands. His forces took possession of Tipton on Friday night, and yesterday morning moved eastward to California. The Lamine Bridge, one of the largest and most expensive in the West has been burned by the vandals, the small guard defending it having fled at the first approach of the Rebels.

Years are entertained for the safety of Sedalia. By the destruction of the Lamine Bridge it is isolated from reinforcements from the east, and there were not men enough on the west to save it from destruction if attacked by the main body of Rebels. It is a prize worth the strongest efforts to capture. The Government has stationed at Sedalia are filled with provisions and baggage for troops in the western part of the State. The place was guarded by four companies of State militia and two pieces of artillery. The Government has stationed at Sedalia are filled with provisions and baggage for troops in the western part of the State. The place was guarded by four companies of State militia and two pieces of artillery. The Government has stationed at Sedalia are filled with provisions and baggage for troops in the western part of the State. The place was guarded by four companies of State militia and two pieces of artillery.

There appears to have been a special effort in certain quarters to strain out an excitement over the recent "change of base" of the Army of the Potomac. Not nervous people are composed. The order for Gen. Meade's movement is at least two weeks old, and the good reasons for it are obvious to every intelligent reader. With our headquarters at Culpeper, we had nearly seven miles of railroad to guard, requiring an army of men, with nothing of the difficulties of transporting supplies so great a distance over a single track of wretched railroad. Our lines too, invited continual Rebel raids in our rear, with our opportunities of checking any sudden movements of the enemy in front greatly impaired. So that all who have frightened themselves into the belief that Gen. Meade has been forced to retreat, have been reckoning without the almanac. Gen. Meade's retrograde movement would have taken place had the enemy maintained their old positions.

What were all of Gen. Lee's designs by his demonstration is not fully understood. There are good reasons to believe that he has been kept fully advised of our movements, and urged to assist his "friends" in Ohio and Pennsylvania, who it was supposed were "menaced" by an overwhelming force of Union voters. His vigorous following up of our retrograding columns undoubtedly had the additional inspiration of disturbing the quiet canvas going on among Ohio soldiers, and of hastening the return of any forlorned soldiers in the old Keystone State, who might be tarrying at home to cast a vote for the Union cause.

Those who have read your correct report of the Saturday and Sunday's engagements will have noticed the fact that, while our cavalry, under Gregg, were engaging the enemy on the extreme right, with every indication of a very large force as the extreme left, and found the main body of Lee's Army down there. It would seem by this that Lee, while making a point of passing up the Valley and through the Gaps, really designed to get his main army in our rear, cut us off, and force us to battle at great disadvantage. But, whatever were his objects, he has been thwarted and outgeneraled by Gen. Meade here, and, in the absence of "official information," it is presumed his "friends" have been routed in the elections at home.

There has been some heavy skirmishing to-day in the direction of Warrenton, in which our cavalry (as has recently been their wont) have taken the lead. With our lines stretched out, and our radius circumscribed, you may depend that we are made stronger either for defensive or offensive operations.

RETA.

The Situation at Charleston—The Harbor Closed Against Our Iron-Clads.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

From what can be ascertained of the real state of affairs at Charleston, the Rebels have effectually closed the channel to the city to our fleet, reserving a passage, however, to their own craft, after the manner of a canal, with a safety lock against the enemy. The destruction may be of such a nature as not to be removed by any appliances of our own, or of too formidable a nature to justify a hazardous attempt by our iron-clads to penetrate further into the harbor, and within range of the Rebel guns. Under these circumstances, the best engineering and strategic advice seems necessary on the part of the respective commanders of the land and water forces, to make a thoroughly successful demonstration upon Charleston. Such a result is not considered doubtful, but time is necessarily required for the consummation of their plans.

SEVENTEENTH REGIMENT N. Y. S. V.—The 17th Regiment was filled up yesterday by the consolidation of the 9th Regiment (Hawkins Zouaves) and the 26th New York Volunteers, and will leave for the seat of war to-day, under command of Col. Wm. T. C. Grover, Col. Jardine of the 9th Regiment Zouaves going out as Lieutenant-Colonel, and Lieut. Col. J. O. Martin as Major. The regiment will muster 800 strong. This will be the first veteran regiment to leave New-York, and it has been suggested that some action be taken by the City toward presenting them with an appropriate stand of colors. The old shattered and battered worn one cannot be carried again. Owing to the sudden order for departure, the regiment will be unable to make the anticipated parade through the city.

The Five-Twenties.

PHILADELPHIA, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

The subscription agent reports the sale of \$1,300,000 five-centuries to-

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

THE NOVEMBER INTEREST IN THE BONDS OF THE NATIONAL BANKS.

It is officially announced that the National Banks will receive remittances in coin checks for the November interest on their United States bonds in season for their collection at New-York, Philadelphia, or Boston, on the 1st of November. No need, therefore, for these Banks to send here for the coupons.

THE RETURN OF SURGEON-GENERAL HAMMOND.

The friends of Surgeon-General Hammond say that there is no doubt that he will, on his return from his tour of inspection to New Orleans, and perhaps other points in the West, resume his place at the head of the bureau.

THE CASE OF LIEUT. COL. RUFF.

The proceedings of the Court-Martial in the case of Lieut. Col. Ruff 3d U. S. Cavalry, have been sent in, and are awaiting the action of the War Department. In the meantime Col. Ruff has obtained permission to return to Philadelphia, to perfect his accounts as mustering and disbursing officer.

PROMOTION OF ENGINEER OFFICERS.

A Board of Engineer Officers is now in session here to examine officers of that corps for promotion, in accordance with an act approved March 3, 1863, which provides that no officers of engineers, below the rank of field officer, shall be promoted before having passed a satisfactory examination before a Board of Officers senior to him in rank. Officers on important duty in the West will be examined through the medium of correspondence, as it would be injurious to the service to withdraw them from the field at present.

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS FOR VOLUNTEER RECRUITING SERVICE.

Col. Conrad Baker, 1st Indiana Cavalry, and Col. E. A. Parrott, 1st Ohio Volunteers, have been detailed to superintend the volunteer recruiting service in their respective States. Hitherto more than 100,000 of the Regular Army have been assigned to this duty.

To the Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday, Oct. 15, 1863.

SETTLE-SHIP FOR THE GULF SQUADRON.

The supply-ship Circassian will leave Boston for the Gulf on Saturday, the 24th.

THE SUNKEN VESSELS IN HAMPTON ROADS.

A year and a half ago the Navy Department made a contract for raising the sunken vessels about twenty in number, in Hampton Roads, but owing to the fact that the contractor has shown himself incompetent to work, the Navy Department will soon again advertise for proposals for the performance of that service, thus affording to men of genius and enterprise a fine opportunity of investment of capital and labor.

FROM NASHVILLE.

Meeting of Rebel Prisoners and Union Soldiers—The Good Feeling Existing Between Them—They Will Forget the Animosity Engendered by the War—The Prisoners are Unionists in Heart, &c.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Monday, Oct. 5, 1863.

One of the most pleasing and encouraging incidents that I have met with for some time occurred yesterday on the Louisville and Nashville Road. There were two or three long trains of troops going south, and at Cave City they met the up-train containing several hundred Rebel prisoners. As soon as it was whispered from car to car that there was a load of Rebel prisoners there was quite a stir, especially in the ladies' car, where the ladies were anxious to know what the Rebels were like. Soon the train came to a stop, and the Rebels were taken out of the cars and marched in single file, and at first there was an evident shyness on both sides, especially with the prisoners, who rather shrunk back from the gaze of the Union soldiers—but they were encouraged by the ladies, who were dressed in the most elegant manner, and who were very kind and friendly to them. They were all well, and some of them were very young. One of the Rebels, a blue-eyed young man, was from North Carolina. Another, a dark and sallow, well-natured, full of wit, was from Alabama, and so on.

They were discussing the effects of slavery on the poorer classes of the South; the difference between the North and South in advancement, in schools, manufactures, &c. A very benevolent-looking gentleman, a Unionist, in explaining the great influence the colored people had on the education of the whites in the South, said they were taken care of, nursed, and raised by the whites. "And," said he, "when I was a baby I myself had to suck the breast of an old colored woman." I noticed that a little boy, ten or twelve years old said, "Mamma, when the Rebels first came here, they killed the men just before him turning their heads at the childish inquiry, said, 'There they are, pointing to the prisoners.' 'No, they are not the Rebels,' he replied, 'evidently thinking that the murderers of his father, and the destroyers of all their domestic happiness, must be some Indians and dreadful wild beasts, but on the continued reassurance of his mother, and the answer of the men themselves, that they were really the Rebels, he began to cry, and a good cry he did. He was put up his little fists to his face, and shrunk back with a confused fear and astonishment.

The saddest point with these prisoners seemed to be that the Unionists were so kind to them, and that they were made to feel equal to the whites. This they never would bear, if the negroes were all taken away they would not care. 'But,' said I, 'what would you do for laborers, you have not enough even now for all your work, and you have been sending to Africa for slaves, and make them equal to the whites.' This they never would bear, if the negroes were all taken away they would not care. 'But,' said I, 'what would you do for laborers, you have not enough even now for all your work, and you have been sending to Africa for slaves, and make them equal to the whites.' This they never would bear, if the negroes were all taken away they would not care. 'But,' said I, 'what would you do for laborers, you have not enough even now for all your work, and you have been sending to Africa for slaves, and make them equal to the whites.' 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